



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 11, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

Thank you for your letter to the Attorney General, cosigned by three other members, regarding your commitment to ending racial profiling. Please be assured that the Attorney General shares your commitment. We apologize for the delay in responding.

As you noted the Department of Justice issued a publication entitled *Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies* ("Guidance") in June 2003. The Civil Rights Division distributed the Guidance to federal law enforcement agencies along with a memorandum specifically noting that it had been adopted by the President as executive policy for federal law enforcement activities and directing that it be implemented immediately. The memorandum also instructed federal law enforcement agencies to review and to revise their policies, procedures, and training manuals as necessary to ensure conformity with the Guidance.

In June 2004, the Department hosted a conference with general counsels and other representatives of federal law enforcement agencies, highlighting once again the importance of following the Guidance and reviewing the specific steps agencies had taken to implement the Guidance. The Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights chaired the conference, which included presentations on implementation by various agencies. The agencies reported that they had received the Guidance, had reviewed their policies and procedures, and had updated or were in the process of updating their training materials to ensure that veteran and newly-hired federal law enforcement officials understand and follow the Guidance. In addition, the Department stressed the importance of eliminating invidious racial profiling, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it results in more effective use of limited law enforcement resources and increases the confidence and respect that citizens have in the work done by federal law enforcement officials.


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Based on this experience, the Department believes that the Guidance serves the purpose of eliminating racial profiling by federal law enforcement officers. As you stated in your letter, the Guidance implements the ban that is the subject of your legislation.

The Department and this Administration remain fully committed to the elimination of invidious racial profiling by law enforcement agencies, and we welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you on these matters.

Thank you for contacting the Department of Justice. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you are in need of assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William E. Moschella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William E. Moschella  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner  
Chairman